

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 01623 071230Z
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 INR-10 MED-02
NSAE-00 PA-01 HA-05 CA-01 OES-07 CIAE-00 AID-05
ICAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ISO-00 /083 W
-----038049 071243Z /11

O R 071150Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0034
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION GENEVA
CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL, ATLANTA, GA
HQ PACAF
NAVCOMSTA DIEGO GARCIA
USS FOX
CLARK AFB (FOR USAF HOSPITAL)
NAVAL HOSPITAL, SUBIC BAY
CMEF
CINCPACFLT
JCS WASHDC
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CDRUSACSG FT SHAFTER HI
CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IL
TRIPLER ARMY MED CEN HONOLULU HI
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1623

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; STATE FOR OFDA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SWEL, MV

SUBJ: CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES; INTERIM REPORT
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REF: (A) STATE 89318 (DTG 070026Z APR 78);
(B) CINCPAC 070403Z APR 78

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES ADDRESSEES PROMPT RESPONSES IN REF-
TELS. APPROPRIATE PORTIONS OF REFTELS WERE PASSED TO UNICEF
RESIDENT REP IGNATIEFF WHO PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED REF A PARA 4.

(A) NAMES OF WHO DOCTORS WHO ARE ASSISTING IN CHOLERA
EPIDEMIC IN MALDIVES ARE:

MICROBIOLOGIST - (MRS.) DR. RATNAM (INDIAN)

EPIDEMIOLOGIST - DR. R. R. ARORA (INDIAN)

BOTH ARE FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF COMMUNICABLE
DISEASES, NEW DELHI.

(MRS.) DR. HERANTI WIJEMANNE (SRI LANKAN)

UNICEF PROGRAM OFF CER FROM COLOMBO

MR. P. O. LENNARTSSON, UNICEF

LOGISTICS OFFICER FROM COLOMBO

SCHEDULED TO PROCEED FROM COLOMBO TO MALE ON 9 APRIL:

DR. HUNT (SRI LANKAN) WHO CONSULTANT

PEDIATRICIAN

DR. A.V.K.V. DASALVA (SRI LANKA)

EPIDEMIOLOGIST

(B) ORAL REHYDRATION FLUID IN ADDITION TO IV INFUSION
TREATMENT ALREADY IN EXTENSIVE USE. IN FACT, IT IS UP TO
NOW MAJOR TREATMENT. ORAL REHYDRATION IS WORKING EFFECTIVE-
LY AND WHO PREFERS NOT TO USE IV ADMINISTERED BY UNTRAINED
PERSONNEL UNLESS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE SIDE
EFFECTS AND MISUSE.

2. ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED PARA 5, REF. A, WAS
GRATEFULLY RECEIVED BY IGNATIEFF.

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3. RE REF A, PARA 8, THERE ARE HELICOPTERS IN SRI LANKA
(AS WELL AS INDIA). HOWEVER, SRI LANKAN HELICOPTERS DO
NOT HAVE RANGE (450 MILES) TO FLY FROM COLOMBO TO
MALE. ACCORDINGLY, THEY WOULD HAVE TO GO ON TRANSPORT
AIRCRAFT OR BY SEA AND WOULD REQUIRE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT
FROM THIRD COUNTRY SOURCE SINCE LITTLE OR NONE AVAIL-
ABLE IN MALDIVES. GSL HELICOPTER INVENTORY INCLUDES
BELL JET RANGERS.

4. WHO MALDIVES HAS IDENTIFIED CASES OF VIBRIO CHOLERAEE.
SRI LANKA MINISTRY OF HEALTH TESTS HAVE IDENTIFIED
CHOLERA ELTON OGAWA FROM SPECIMENS SENT FROM MALE. TEST-
ING IS CONTINUING.

5. COMMENT. UNICEF RESREP IGNATIEFF IS PROCEEDING
METICULOUSLY TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON EQUIPMENT AND
PERSONNEL AVAILABILITIES AND PASS THIS TO UN PERSONNEL
IN MALDIVES FOR THEIR EVALUATION OF NEED BEFORE MAKING
ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS OF US. IN VIEW OF LACK OF
COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION IN MALDIVES, IT MAY BE
A FEW DAYS BEFORE UN TEAM IS ABLE TO ASSEMBLE IN MALE
AND COMMUNICATE CONSIDERED REQUEST TO COLOMBO FOR

IGNATIEFF TO PASS TO US. IGNATIEFF VOLUNTEERED THAT
IN ADDITION TO US RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
ON POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE BRITISH HAVE ALSO INDICATED
WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST. MALDIVIAN GOVERNMENT STILL
WISHES INFORMATION ON EPIDEMIC KEPT CONFIDENTIAL
DESPITE IGNATIEFF PLEA FOR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT.
WRIGGINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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